

June 5th 2024

# A Quick Update

Hey! How is life? A lot has happened since I last wrote a newsletter. The students completed their lecture phase, and we embarked on a journey to Japan! I helped lead our team of 10 people, all under 21, across the country as we witnessed God's faithfulness, power, and love. We saw God do incredible things in that country, and we got the opportunity to help in His plan. The biggest miracle we saw was all of us making it back alive and in one piece. Although, I did lose all my hair in Mikazuki.

## Myoko-Kogen

We started our outreach with two weeks in Myoko-Kogen, a peaceful town in the mountains of the Nagano prefecture. Here, we stayed with a lovely old lady named Joyce. Because the village was so quiet, it took a lot of work for us to evangelize or talk to people. We came into the outreach with a lot of energy, so to face such a sleepy town for the first location was a challenge. We understood that God was telling us to rest and trust in Him, but we just wanted to jump right into doing the dirty work you expect to do on outreach. God asked us to lean into Him for our sense of accomplishment and belonging. He was asking us to hand over our expectations for the outreach. "If God called us to Japan to only do prayer walks and intercede for the country, would we see that as a successful outreach?" This a tough question to face because, of course, we want to be helpful and perform within His will, but were we willing to have a supporting role in His plan for Japan? Many of us had outside pressure to show off the work we were doing, so accepting that our outreach might not look how we wanted it to was difficult.

However, looking back on our time in Myoko, we can see that God used us in big ways, whether we realized it or not. We had many opportunities to pray for people. One notable moment was when we prayed for a paralyzed lady named Azusa. Azusa wasn't healed in front of us, but the two Japanese people who witnessed our prayers were in tears. They could not understand why a group of young people would want to come to Japan and pray for people instead of doing all of Japan's tourist activities.

Also, during our time in Myoko, on two occasions, we stood outside the Nagano train station and worshipped, offered free hugs, and made a space where people could come and practice their English. Japanese people do not hug. So, we did not expect people to be running up and hugging us outside of a busy station. We had so much fun doing this, and our prayer is that the people who did come up to us got a taste of what God's love is like.

## Mikazuki Christian Prayer Mountain

After Myoko-Kogen, we spent two weeks at a church called Mikazuki Christian Prayer Mountain. Bola and Louise were our hosts at this location. They are YWAMers hoping to run a DTS out of the church next year. Most of our ministry was helping them to prepare the space with everything they needed to run a school. God had given us a word that we were in Japan to prepare its soil for seeds, and we believe that was exactly what we were doing in Mikazuki.

We also got to do a 24-hour prayer session, where we would team up in pairs and take hour-long shifts throughout the 24 hours. It was incredible to hear from God and to see His consistency and vision during this time.

Another memorable moment would be praying for a man named Mr. Tanaka. We were doing our morning devotional as a team when this man arrived and started speaking in Japanese. We had no idea what he was talking about, so we stared at him in confusion and prayed our hosts would show up and save us. Thankfully they did, and they helped this elderly gentleman into the church and told us to follow them. He had arthritis in his legs but believed our prayers could help him. We worshipped and we prayed for physical and spiritual healing. After quite a while, we left him in the care of our hosts as we went outside to worship some more. Our hosts told us after he left that he accepted Jesus into his life and walked out the door without any pain in his legs.

## Jesus Cafe House/Osaka

We spent 20 days in Osaka, working with a church named Jesus Cafe House. This location was unlike the first two, as we had no end of ministry opportunities. We helped out with kindergarten, volunteered at a school for kids with learning difficulties and disabilities, hosted international cafes, taught English, led worship, handed out flyers, and much more. I was inspired by how on fire this church was for Jesus. Everyone in the church had a part to play and they all contributed their strengths to the body. They didn't have space for us to stay in the church so we were dispersed among members of the congregation. This was a huge blessing as we got the chance to build our relationships with our host families and see what life is like as a Japanese Christian.

After our time in Osaka, we headed to Tokyo for four days to do some debriefing as a team and a little sightseeing. When we were back in Vancouver, we did another week of debriefing for the entire DTS experience, and then at the end of the week, we had the graduation ceremony and waved goodbye to all the students.

Now that the DTS is done, I'm hoping to rest for a while, as the last five months were packed with experiences and I am worn out. However! I have lots planned for this summer and the coming year. I have been given some great opportunities through my church and the people that I have connected with in the city. Our base in Vancouver will also be running a new school in September that I am planning to attend. It is a Discipleship Bible School (DBS) and it will be the first one in Canada. I think this is a great opportunity for me to get a deep dive into the Bible and learn more about theology.

Thank you all so much for your continuous support and prayers. I could not be doing this without you. Every time I questioned God's call on my life as a missionary, he would use you guys to encourage me. He would remind me that I am a part of a team and that team has my back. Thank you so much for being on my team, you were with me in Japan and I know you will be with me wherever God sends me next.

### Prayer Points

- Please continue to pray for provision. God has consistently provided for me to stay and work in Vancouver and for this, I am so grateful. But life in Vancouver is expensive and if I want to do the DBS I will need to pay for that too.
- Pray for my relationships with the people here in Vancouver as I get more involved in the city.
- Pray for the students who just graduated from the DTS. The transition back home can be very challenging.
- Pray for the students who are thinking of coming to the next DTS. We already have 4 accepted!!

Thank you again for taking the time to read this newsletter. It was a long one, but there was a lot to tell you. And that wasn't even all of it! I have so many more stories about my time in Japan and during the lecture phase. Please feel free to reach out and contact me anytime. My goal for this summer is to become more intentional with reaching out to the people that make this possible.

Cheers,  
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P.S. Pictures will be on my website. This newsletter is already 3 pages long, so I didn't want it to look super intimidating by being 48 pages long with pictures.

